

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 /103 W

-----088419 150005Z /15

R 141425Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0034
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10044

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, NI, UR
SUBJECT: FMG ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR NIGERIAN LABOR MOVEMENT

REF: LAGOS 9617, LAGOS A-55

1. THE NEW FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR LABOR, S.O. WILLIAMS, DURING A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NIGERIA LABOR CONGRESS (NLC) ON AUGUST 10, ANNOUNCED FUNDING OF ONE MILLION NAIRA TO ASSIST THE NLC AND THE 43 NEW INDUSTRIAL UNIONS. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE NLC HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO TAKE OVER THE ASSETS OF THE FOUR BANNED CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS: UNITED LABOR CONGRESS (ULC), NIGERIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS (NTUC), LABOR UNITY FRONT (LUF) AND NIGERIAN WORKERS' COUNCIL (NWC). THESE CONSIST OF 28,110 NAIRA FROM THE NTUC AND 1,500 NAIRA FROM THE NWC. NEITHER THE ULC OR LUF HAD ANY LIQUID ASSETS.

2. THE NLC PRESIDENT, WHO HAD ASKED FOR FIVE MILLION NAIRA FOR THE NLC'S FIRST YEAR, DESCRIBED THE GOVERNMENT GRANT AS A
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"PITTANCE." HE CLAIMED THE NLC WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OPERATE ITS PROGRAMS AND PAY STAFF SALARIES UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT ALSO APPROVES A CHECKOFF SYSTEM TO ENABLE THE UNIONS TO COLLECT MONEY FROM MEMBERSHIP AND PAY DUES TO THE NLC.

3. COMMENT: CABINET OFFICE OFFICIAL O.A. ADETOLA TOLD EMBASSY POLITICAL/LABOR ASSISTANT THAT THE INVESTIGATION RECENTLY

CONDUCTED BY THE SECURITY UNIT OF THE CABINET OFFICE (REFTEL A)
CONCLUDED THAT SOME FORMER MEMBERS OF NTUC, WHO ARE NOW NLC
OFFICERS, HAVE POLITICAL AMBITIONS AND MAINTAIN STRONG TIES WITH
THE ALL-UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (AUCCTU) OF THE
SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THE SECURITY UNIT RECOMMENDED THOSE
MEMBERS BE KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE. DIRECTOR OF LABOR G.C.
OKOGWU CONFIRMED THAT THE SECURITY UNIT REPORT "HAS NOT BEEN
FAVORABLE TO NTUC MEMBERS IN THE NLC" AND SAID THE GRANT OF ONE
MILLION NAIRA INSTEAD OF THE FIVE MILLION REQUESTED BY NLC
WAS "NOT UNCONNECTED" WITH THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION.
WYMAN

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